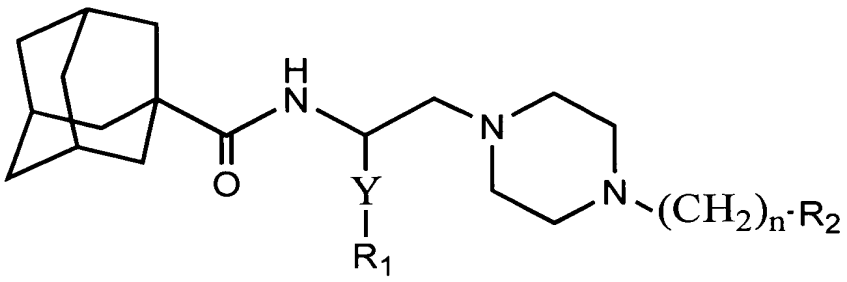
What is Claimed:

1. A compound of the formula:



wherein:

Y is selected from $-CH_2-$ or $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$;

n is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

R_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, $-NH_2$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_1-C_6$ alkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl or C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

R_2 is phenyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, or pyrazinyl optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, $-NH_2$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_1-C_6$ alkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl, or C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

and the optical isomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein:

R_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, $-NH_2$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl or C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

R_2 is phenyl or pyrimidinyl optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, $-NH_2$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_1-C_6$ alkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl, or C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

and the optical isomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound of claim 1 wherein:

R_1 is phenyl optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl or C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

R_2 is phenyl or pyrimidinyl, optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, C_1–C_6 alkyl, C_1–C_6 perhaloalkyl, or C_1–C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

and the optical isomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Dihydrochloride Dihydrate.

5. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo-[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Dihydrochloride Dihydrate.

6. A compound of Claim 1 which is (S)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Dihydrochloride Dihydrate.

7. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-pyrimidinyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Hemihydrate.

8. A compound of Claim 1 which is (S)-N-[1-(Phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-pyrimidinyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide.

9. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-N-[1-((Phenylmethoxy)methyl)-2-[4-(phenylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]ethyl]tricyclo-[3.3.1.1^{3,7})]-decane-1-carboxamide Dihydrochloride Dihydrate.

10. A compound of Claim 1 which is (R)-Adamantane-1-carboxylic acid [1-(phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-piperazinyl]ethyl]-amide Hemifumarate Hemihydrate.

11. A compound of Claim 1 which is (S)-Adamantane-1-carboxylic acid [1-(phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-piperazinyl]ethyl]-amide Hemifumarate Hemihydrate.

12. A compound of Claim 1 which is (S)-Adamantane-1-carboxylic acid [1-(phenylmethyl)-2-[4-(2-methoxyphenyl)-piperazinyl]ethyl]-amide Hemifumarate Hydrate.

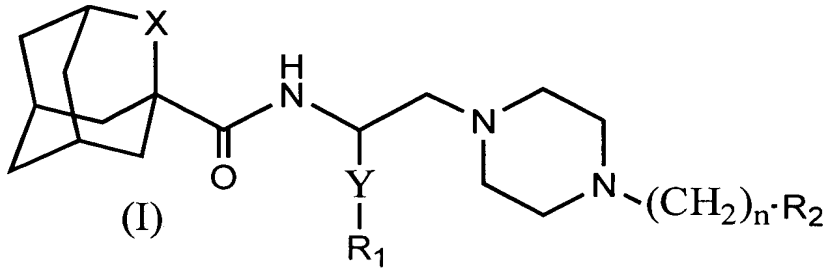
13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising

a) a pharmaceutically effective amount of at least one compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

b) one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

14. A method of treating a neurodegenerative disorder selected from Alzheimer's Disease, Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, or AIDS dementia, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutical salt thereof, to a patient in need of said treatment.

15. A method of treating a neurodegenerative disorder selected from retinal disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis comprising administering to a patient in need of said treatment a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutical salt thereof:



(I)

wherein

X is selected from $-CH_2-$ or a chemical bond;

Y is selected from $-(CH_2)_m-$ or $-(CH_2)-O-(CH_2)-$;

m is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

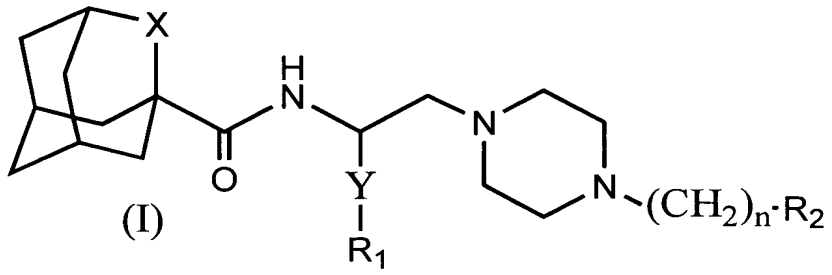
n is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, monocyclic heteroaryl having 5 – 6 ring atoms of which 1-3 ring atoms are independently selected from the group consisting of N, S and O, and bicyclic heteroaryl having a phenyl ring fused to a monocyclic heteroaryl ring as defined above, optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, $-NH_2$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2-C_1-C_6$ alkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl, OR_3, or C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_6-C_{10} aryl, monocyclic heteroaryl having 5 –6 ring atoms of which 1-3 ring atoms are independently selected from the group consisting of N, S and O, and bicyclic heteroaryl having a phenyl ring fused to a monocyclic heteroaryl ring as defined above, C_7-C_{14} aralkyl, and mono or bicyclic heteroaralkyl consisting of a C_1-C_4 alkyl having a substituent which is a mono or bicyclic heteroaryl as defined above, where the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, CN, $-NH_2$, $-NO_2$, -OH, alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_1-C_6 perhaloalkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, and C_1-C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

and the optical isomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. A method of treating a neurodegenerative disorder selected from epilepsy, ischemia resulting from a surgical technique involving prolonged halt of blood flow to the brain, head trauma, spinal trauma, hypoxia, comprising administering to a patient in need of said treatment a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutical salt thereof:



(I)

wherein

X is selected from -CH_2- or a chemical bond;

Y is selected from –$(CH_2)_m$- or –(CH_2)-O–(CH_2)-;

m is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

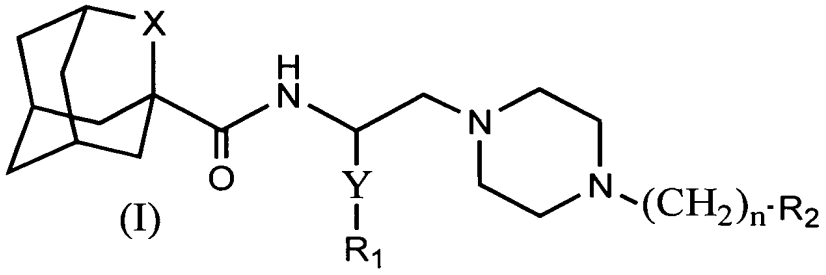
n is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, monocyclic heteroaryl having 5 – 6 ring atoms of which 1-3 ring atoms are independently selected from the group consisting of N, S and O, and bicyclic heteroaryl having a phenyl ring fused to a monocyclic heteroaryl ring as defined above, optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, -NH_2, -CO_2H, -CO_2-C_1–C_6 alkyl, -CN, -NO_2, C_1–C_6 alkyl, C_2–C_6 alkenyl, C_2–C_6 alkynyl, C_1–C_6 perhaloalkyl, OR_3, or C_1–C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1–C_6 alkyl, C_2–C_6 alkenyl, C_2–C_6 alkynyl, C_6–C_{10} aryl, monocyclic heteroaryl having 5 –6 ring atoms of which 1-3 ring atoms are independently selected from the group consisting of N, S and O, and bicyclic heteroaryl having a phenyl ring fused to a monocyclic heteroaryl ring as defined above, C_7–C_{14} aralkyl, and mono or bicyclic heteroaralkyl consisting of a C_1-C_4 alkyl having a substituent which is a mono or bicyclic heteroaryl as defined above, where the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, CN, -NH_2, -NO_2, -OH, alkyl, C_2–C_6 alkenyl, C_2–C_6 alkynyl, C_1–C_6 perhaloalkyl, C_1–C_6 alkoxy, and C_1–C_6 perhaloalkoxy.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the hypoxia is fetal hypoxia.

18. A method of treating chronic pain comprising administering to a patient in need of said treatment a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutical salt thereof:



(I)

wherein

X is selected from -CH_2- or a chemical bond;

Y is selected from –$(CH_2)_m$- or –(CH_2)-O–(CH_2)-;

m is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

n is selected from the integer 0 or 1;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, monocyclic heteroaryl having 5 – 6 ring atoms of which 1-3 ring atoms are independently selected from the group consisting of N, S and O, and bicyclic heteroaryl having a phenyl ring fused to a monocyclic heteroaryl ring as defined above, optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, I, -OH, -NH_2, -CO_2H, -CO_2-C_1–C_6 alkyl, -CN, -NO_2, C_1–C_6 alkyl, C_2–C_6 alkenyl, C_2–C_6 alkynyl, C_1–C_6 perhaloalkyl, OR_3, or C_1–C_6 perhaloalkoxy;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1–C_6 alkyl, C_2–C_6 alkenyl, C_2–C_6 alkynyl, C_6–C_{10} aryl, monocyclic heteroaryl having 5 –6 ring atoms of which 1-3 ring atoms are independently selected from the group consisting of N, S and O, and bicyclic heteroaryl having a phenyl ring fused to a monocyclic heteroaryl ring as defined above, C_7–C_{14} aralkyl, and mono or bicyclic heteroaralkyl consisting of a C_1-C_4 alkyl having a substituent which is a mono or bicyclic heteroaryl as defined above, where the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, CN, -NH_2, -NO_2, -OH, alkyl, C_2–C_6 alkenyl, C_2–C_6 alkynyl, C_1–C_6 perhaloalkyl, C_1–C_6 alkoxy, and C_1–C_6 perhaloalkoxy.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein the chronic pain is diabetic peripheral neuropathy.